

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**Licensing and Education Practice Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2007**

Department of Consumer Affairs  
Medical Board of California  
1424 Howe Avenue  
Greg Gorges Conference Room "F"  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 263-2666

**Committee Members Present**

Alison Grimes, AuD, Chairperson  
Lisa O'Connor, M.A.  
Naomi Smith, AuD  
Jennifer Hancock, M.A.

**Staff Present**

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer  
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst  
George Ritter, Legal Counsel

**Board Members Present**

Rebecca Binge, M.A.  
Diana Verdugo, M.S.  
Carol Murphy, M.A.

**Board Members Absent**

Paul Donald, M.D.

**Guests Present**

Robert Ivory, Audiologist California Academy of Audiology  
Robert Powell, California Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
April Freeman, Board of Occupational Therapy  
Beth Scott, Future Board Staff- Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Grimes called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**II. Introductions****III. Evaluation of Licensing Requirements for Audiology Students Completing the Post-Professional Experience Within the Doctorate of Audiology Training Program – Examination of Supervision Standards and Provisional Licensing Requirements**

Ms. Del Mugnaio led the discussion at the request of Chairperson Grimes and referenced the legislative and regulation analysis document included in the meeting packets which outlined proposed amendments to the existing laws and regulations pertaining to supervision standards in the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she created the document in 2003, at which time the Board was in the process of amending its regulations to address the change in professional training in audiology to that of doctoral training. She stated that over the last 3 ½ years, the Board has been discussing the need for amending several different

statutory and regulatory code sections related to entry-level licensing standards for both audiology and speech-language pathology, as many of the regulations had been adopted more than a decade ago. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that the Board had included language regarding supervisor qualifications in its preliminary drafts of the Board-approved institutions regulations but stated that after many subsequent Board discussions and public comments, the final adopted regulation language was much less prescriptive and did not include specific program standards for doctoral training, including the supervision parameters. She stated that since then, the Board has been tentative about enacting specific language related to supervisor qualifications as the issue of appropriate supervisory credentials was still being deliberated on a national level and was tied to national program accreditation standards. She stated that recently the Board has received email communications and telephone calls from audiology doctoral students, who are completing clinical training in other states and are concerned that such training will not qualify these students for licensure in California because their supervisors do not hold the appropriate national certifications as specified in California's licensing provisions. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that currently the laws and regulations define a qualified supervisor as one who holds a California license if operating in the state, or who holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) if the supervision occurs in another state. She stated that the Board has noted on several occasions that the CCC requirement for audiology supervisors may not be the appropriate qualification and may not be endorsed by the audiology profession. As such, there may not be an ample supply of audiology supervisors across the country who hold the CCC. Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that in previous discussions regarding the supervisor standards of doctoral students, the Board had proposed elimination of the CCC standard from the licensing provisions and instead changing the requirements to reflect solely licensure in the state where the practice/supervision is conducted.

Ms. Grimes stated that she recalled that there was an issue with relying on state licensure in other states as the state may have less rigorous licensing standards than that of California.

Ms. O'Connor agreed and stated that she would be uncomfortable with adopting a standard that acknowledges the licensing standards of another state as equivalent to California licensing for the purposes of supervision.

Ms. Del Mugnaio pointed out that regardless of whether another state standard is equivalent, the supervisor must hold the license to practice and thus is a qualifying factor. She stated that an additional criterion may be appropriate.

Ms. Del Mugnaio referenced the 2007 Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA) standards for audiology doctoral programs, which stated that the supervisor must hold the CCC, if the student is interested in pursuing the ASHA CCC, otherwise, the supervision standards were not prescriptive.

Ms. Grimes stated that she believed that the CAA 2008 accreditation standards were in the final approval stages and that the standards for supervision did not include any specific mention of the CCC.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she had emailed ASHA to inquire about the accreditation language pertaining to supervisor standards in the doctoral programs but did not recall receiving a response.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she did receive a response to her email regarding the topic from Vic Gladstone, wherein Mr. Gladstone reiterated the language in the CAA 2007 accreditation standards

and acknowledged that there may be a shortage of audiology supervisors holding the CCC; however, he was not aware of any documented evidence to that effect.

Ms. O'Connor reported that the last ASHA count of audiology members was still at 14,000 and that ASHA had not reported a loss in audiology membership.

Ms. Grimes inquired about adding the American Board of Audiology (ABA) certification standard as an appropriate alternative to the CCC requirement in existing regulations.

The Committee discussed the concept of recognizing national certification as the requisite supervisor standard and determined that such a definition may still be excluding a large mass of qualified audiology supervisors, as only 1,100 audiology nationally hold the ABA certification.

Ms. Grimes commented that since the clinical training of audiology doctoral students is completed under the confines of the university, the audiology doctoral program should be vetting student placement and promoting quality assurance.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that even if the standards are to be controlled by the universities, the Board still has the issue of updating its provisions to reflect existing supervision models. In addition, she stated that California requires audiology doctoral students who are completing the 4<sup>th</sup> year externship to hold a provisional (temporary) license which must be issued under defined supervision standards.

Ms. Grimes stated that the issue of the 4<sup>th</sup> year AuD student holding a temporary license is another controversial issue in that the national professional organization, the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) has a draft position statement which deems this to be undesirable. Specifically, the AAA has opined that a "student" who has not earned a degree, is still enrolled in a professional training program, and is paying tuition to the program, should be directly supervised at all times and should not be provisionally licensed.

The Committee discussed the issue of the AuD student holding the temporary license at length and determined that the matter should be revisited at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Ms. Del Mugnaio redirected the Committee to the supervisor qualifications issue.

Ms. Smith suggested requiring a certain number of years of professional experience as a requirement in addition to state licensure.

The Committee determined that a requisite number of years of professional experience would be an appropriate standard and discussed the proposal of requiring five (5) years of professional experience.

Ms. O'Connor commented that she would not be prepared to adopt language at this meeting as she would like to review the licensing and supervision standards of other states and the CAA 2008 Accreditation Standards before making any decisions.

Ms. Grimes stated that she could also research whether the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAE) has any specific requirements for supervisors of audiology doctoral students in its standards.

Ms. O'Connor stated that she believes that all supervisors should be required to take courses in supervision training as part of their continuing professional development (CPD) requirements, similar to the requirements imposed on supervisors of speech-language pathology assistants. She requested that the issue be placed on the next meeting agenda.

The Committee determined that the following issues should be placed on the April 12-13, 2007 meeting agenda for full Board consideration: supervision standards for students completing their professional experience, the issuance of a provisional (temporary) license to a 4<sup>th</sup>-year AuD student completing the clinical externship, and imposing specific CPD standards for all qualified supervisors.

#### **IV. Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Roles in Diagnosing Auditory Processing Disorders- Review of Draft Guidelines Prepared by California Speech-Language-Hearing Association**

Ms. Grimes referenced the updated California Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (CSHA) task force document on Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2007 and invited Committee member comment.

Several of the Committee members explained that they had not taken notice that the document had been revised and thus were not prepared to comment on the latest revision.

Ms. Del Mugnaio suggested that the Committee recommend to the full Board that all of the Board members review the revised CSHA document on APD and submit written comments to be reviewed at the next scheduled Board/Committee meeting.

Ms. Bingea inquired about the intent of the formulated comments as the CSHA document had already been approved and sanctioned by its governing board.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that it's important for the Board to take a position on the validity of the state professional position document as the Board may need to rely on such professional guidelines in enforcement matters surrounding APD issues and substandard care or unprofessional conduct by treating practitioners. She explained that even if the Board has concerns with the document, much of the information may be useful and professionally sound, in which case, it can be regarded as a professional guideline for California. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that even if the Board's comments do not result in immediate modifications to the existing CSHA document, they may draw awareness to different issues and generate consideration for future amendments.

Ms. Grimes indicated that the AAA is working on a position statement addressing the diagnosis of APD and inquired of Mr. Ivory whether the California Academy of Audiology was working on a professional position document.

Mr. Ivory reported that he was not aware that the California Academy of Audiology was working on any such document.

M/S/C                      Smith/O'Connor

The Committee voted to recommend to the full Board that all members review the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2007 CSHA guidelines on APD and prepare comments to submit to Ms. Del Mugnaio by February 15, 2007 to determine whether the document may be relied upon as a professional guideline for enforcing a standard of professional practice for diagnosing and treating APD and, further, to compile such comments to share with the CSHA task force for future discussions.

Chairperson Grimes adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

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Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer